

Amendment to the Claims

Below is a complete listing of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method for immobilizing a target with a stimulus signal coupled to the target via electrodes; the method comprising:
 - a step for providing the stimulus signal in accordance with a strike stage that causes contractions of the skeletal muscles of the target and halts voluntary locomotion by the target;
 - a step for providing the stimulus signal in accordance with a hold stage;
 - a step for providing the stimulus signal in accordance with a rest stage.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 - the stimulus signal during the strike stage comprises a first repetition rate; and
 - the stimulus signal during the hold stage comprises a second repetition rate less than the first repetition rate.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 - the stimulus signal during the strike stage comprises a first pulse that delivers a first charge to the target; and
 - the stimulus signal during the hold stage comprises a second pulse that delivers a second charge to the target less than the first charge.
4. Cancelled
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step for conditionally providing a path formation stage, wherein the stimulus signal is provided in accordance with whether the path formation stage preceded the strike stage.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the stimulus signal in a strike stage comprises a step for providing a series of pulses having a pulse repetition rate in a range of about 5 pulses per second to about 50 pulses per second, and providing at least one pulse of the series at ~~a peak voltage less than an ionization potential~~ to deliver a charge in a range of about 20 microcoulombs to about 1355 microcoulombs.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein each pulse delivers a charge in a range of about 50 to 150 microcoulombs.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising a step for reversing the polarity of

consecutive pulses in the series.

9 – 18 (Cancelled)

19. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the stimulus signal during the strike stage is coupled to the target without a gap.

20. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step for coupling the stimulus signal to the target.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the step for coupling further comprises launching wire-tethered electrodes towards the target.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the step for coupling further comprises launching a wireless projectile towards the target.

23. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the strike stage comprises pulses and a pulse comprises a path formation stage.

24. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the hold stage comprises pulses and a pulse comprises a path formation stage.

25. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising performing an electrode testing stage that identifies the electrodes from a plurality of electrodes.

26. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the stimulus signal during the rest stage permits the target to breathe.

27. (New) A method for immobilizing a target with a stimulus signal coupled to the target via electrodes; the method comprising:

providing the stimulus signal in accordance with a strike stage that causes contractions of the skeletal muscles of the target and halts voluntary locomotion by the target;

providing the stimulus signal in accordance with a hold stage;

providing the stimulus signal in accordance with a rest stage.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein:

the stimulus signal during the strike stage comprises a first repetition rate; and

the stimulus signal during the hold stage comprises a second repetition rate less than the first repetition rate.

29. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein:

the stimulus signal during the strike stage comprises a first pulse that delivers a first charge to the target; and

the stimulus signal during the hold stage comprises a second pulse that delivers a second charge to the target less than the first charge.

30. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising conditionally providing a path formation stage, wherein the stimulus signal is provided in accordance with whether the path formation stage preceded the strike stage.

31. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the step of providing the stimulus signal in a strike stage comprises providing a series of pulses having a pulse repetition rate in a range of about 5 pulses per second to about 50 pulses per second, and providing at least one pulse of the series to deliver a charge in a range of about 20 microcoulombs to about 1355 microcoulombs.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein each pulse delivers a charge in a range of about 50 to 150 microcoulombs.

33. (New) The method of claim 31 further comprising reversing the polarity of consecutive pulses in the series.

34. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the stimulus signal during the strike stage is coupled to the target without a gap.

35. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising coupling the stimulus signal to the target.

36. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein coupling further comprises launching wire-tethered electrodes towards the target.

37. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein coupling further comprises launching a wireless projectile towards the target.

38. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the strike stage comprises pulses and a pulse comprises a path formation stage.

39. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the hold stage comprises pulses and a pulse comprises a path formation stage.

40. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising performing an electrode testing stage that identifies the electrodes from a plurality of electrodes.

41. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the stimulus signal during the rest stage permits the target to breathe.